THE PROVERB Crossed

OR

A new PARADOX maintained,

(*Viz.*)

That it is not at all times true, that

Interest cannot Lye,

Being a FULL, CLEAR and DISTINCT Answer to a Paper of an English Gentleman, who endeavours to demonstrate, that it is for the Interest of *England*, that the Laws against Transportation of Wooll should be repealed.

The Second Edition, *Corrected; to which is added some Letters from* Flanders *about the same subject.*

Printed for the Author, In the Year 1677.

A FULL and CLEAR Answer to a Paper Intituled, *Reasons for a Limited Exportation of Wooll.*

The Introduction.

Before I come directly to answer the said paper, I shall premise a few things;

First, though my Opponent finds his design opposed by several discourses under the name of W. C. *(and chiefly by one called* Englands Interest*) yet he hath done me the Honour to front his discourse with divers Propositions; allowed even by himself;*

I shall therefore answerably endeavour to treat the said Authour with all that Civility, that is necessary in this case, granting to him what is true, rectifying what I conceive to be mistaken; and answering such objections, as are material, presumeing when after this is done, and is maturely considered by my Opponent we may joyne in our endeavours to carry on the General Good of the kingdom, supposing that is both our designs.

I must needs say, that I had no thoughts of appearing in Publick any more, and could not easily have been moved thereunto, had not my zeal to the Commerse of the Nation (which is at present solely maintained by the woollen Manufacture of it) Raised my fears so far as to believe a great prejudice is coming upon us, and so far as to doubt also that we may be hastning of it, by those very means we would endeavour to prevent it.

And therefore I cannot now but like the dumb child speak, when he saw a knife at his Fathers throat, I mean, when I consider the extremity we are like to be in from the French *Kings vigilancy, and the great endeavours that he hath of late used to acquire the making of the woollen Manufacture in his own Kingdom, and what Artifice and vast expence he doth use to effect his said design, both in* France, *and by his Agents here in England, even at this very day, notwithstanding his mind is and cannot but be so much engaged in the present wars: and if he doth this in the very midst of his distractions, what will he not do, or what may we not expect hereafter from him when he shall be at peace with all his Neighbours, especially having already gotten such quantities of our wooll, as he hath.*

And to encourage the Manufacture thereof in his own Kingdom he hath even very lately issued forth his Edict, for the erecting Hospitals in many Towns in France, both for the setting all sorts of Persons at work (that are able) in the woollen Manufacture, and for the maintenance of all Indigent Persons, and not to suffer a begger there.

And if the French King, how fair soever he pretends a Friendship to us, be designing by all manner of wayes and means, to undermine our Commerce, and by it to prejudice us in our Trade and strength by Sea, I may I hope be pardoned, if I am more than indifferently concerned, or more than ordinarily warm, to think that we our selves should endeavour to perfect his design by delivering up our wooll, the Foundation of so rich a Manufacture, into his hands; for that which is moved, is moved principally (if not solely) for the French Kings advantage, and that which is desired (if granted) tends to our own Inevitable ruine.

Nor can we hereafter think of so vain and Idle a thing, as to recover our woollen Manufacture once lost, or to preserve the Kings Customes, or the strength and shipping of this great Kingdom without it.

Upon all with considerations I cannot but [illegible]

Gentry, (and more especialty such as have the Honour to serve their Country in Parliament) seriously to reflect upon the wisdom of that great Prince, King Edward the 3d. and upon the Method which he in his Reign used, now so long since to gain the woollen Manufacture out of Flanders into this Countrey, and withal impartially compare that with the present practice of the French *King before mentioned.*

And then to consider whether we have not reason to do the utmost we may to prevent his design, or whether we have reason to do all that we can (nay more than he himself doth ask or expect from us) by a Law to promote and Incourage his design.

We must be very short sighted if we understand not that after he hath supplyed his own Countrey he will not only endeavour, but will soon be able to supply Flanders, Portugal, Spain, *and the* Streights, *to gain an advantage to his own subjects; for if he may break the Laws of Commerce, and lay what Impositions he pleaseth upon our Cloth, and all other our Native Commodities, even while we are at peace with him, why may he not also lay an Imposition upon all our ships that pass the* Streights, *or that shall dare to Trade or bring the same Commodities that he doth in any Port of* Italy, *or* Turky, *where the Subjects of his greatness comes? And when our commerce is lost and our Manufacture gone, and our ships imposed upon that shall pass the Seas, what shall be left to defend our selves in case we will not also receive his Codex, or whatsoever he shall (for the greatness of his name) think fit to require of us?*

All which things, whether they be convenient not only to be wished but to be contributed to by a Law, I humbly leave to my Opponents *themselves to judge. For when the Trade that not only brings such a Revenue to his Majesty, but is the riches and strength of this Kingdom shall be lost, as is now attempted, what way or means may we as rational Persons, think (on) to prevent any of those mischiefs before mentioned.*

This General being premised, I shall now enter upon the *Discourse* it self: the main aim or scope of my antagonist divides it self into two parts, the one to prove that there ought to be a *Limitted Transportation of wooll*; the other that by a *Limited Exportation* of *wooll* the Price of it may be *Raised*, and by the *Raising* of this, the Rents of Lands, may and will be encreased, and his Majesties Customs greatly Advanced; and if these things were Really Practicable, I should not only be so just to my self, and to my Opponents, but so just to the *Nation*, as not to put pen to Paper to trouble my Reader, and much less to expose my self to a stage of contention, as I am now like to do; but for as much as the quite contrary will (if I mistake not) appear, I shall therefore *Examine* and *Weigh* those *Reasons* and *Grounds* which my *Opponent* hath brought for those *Assertions*.

And first, whereas my *Opponent* doth endeavour to *Allarm* the *Nation, that for want of the vending our superfluous wool abroad, that the Farmer and the Landlord are so much damnified; that the one cannot pay his Rent, nor the other sustain his Taxes; and that this is the chiefest, if not the sole Reason of sinking our Rents, and throwing up Farms; and misery of the whole Countrey:*

This

This *Conſequence* is not allowed, that being aſſigned for a general Cauſe, which is but one among many, and that a very ſmall one. The true cauſe of the abating the Price of Land, and leſſening the Rents, being to be taken from the proportion that the ſaid price alwaies holds to the rate of Intereſt, as is generally given for Money, which Rate depends whether we will or no upon the plenty of Bullion; and that our Bullion is decayed, and the decay of this is the Main and Principal cauſe of the fall of our *Lands*, will eaſily appear to any that ſhall conſider, Firſt, the great Loſs that this Kingdom did receive by the two laſt *Dutch* wars. Secondly, The further ſad, and almoſt Incomputable Loſs which it ſuſtained by the firing of the City of *London*, and by firing of a great part of the *Suburbs* ſince. And Thirdly, by the vaſt Expence that this *Nation* hath been put to for the *Rebuilding* of the ſaid *City* and the *Suburbs*. Fourthly, by the *Over-ballance* of the *Trade* of *France*, through the *French Kings Arbitrary Impoſitions*, and the breaking the *Laws* of *Commerce* with us, to the prejudice of our *Trade*, and to the loſs of near One *Million of pounds ſterling* by the year: which four cauſes of the decay of our *Bullion*, as they are no way to be denyed, ſo neither can it be doubted, but that we have by all theſe means, loſt near, if not above the one half of the *Bullion* of this *Nation*, (as it was before the ſaid *Accidents* did Happen) and are daily looſing; and if the *Bullion* be thus decreaſed, no marvel if the *Landlord* find it in his *Rents*, and the Shopkeeper finde it in his *Trade*, and the *Farmer* find it in his *Market*, and no marvel, if all degrees of Perſons whatever do make a *Complaint*, how hard money is to be got.

And if this cauſe which we have here aſſigned for the fall of Lands, to omit many others, be ſuch as every man will grant to be ſelf-evident, then my Opponent will I hope not take it ill, if I allow not his to be a cauſe at all, or at leaſt to be ſo ſmall a one, as it is ſcarce to be reckoned with this that we have named.

And whereas my Opponents next pretence in this head, is, *That it is much more the concern of the Nation to preſerve the Nobility, Gentry and thoſe that the land of this Countrey belongs unto; rather than regard a few Artificers, who are employed in the working up of the Wooll of this Nation, or to regard the Merchant who gains by the Exportation of our Manufacture.*

And whereas he gives many reaſons why the firſt of thoſe (*viz.*) the Nobility and Gentry, ſhould be preferr'd before the latter, which is the contemptible *Merchant*, *Marriner*, *and Artificer*; I humbly crave leave to ſay, that the ſaid Argument doth wholly depend upon

a ſuppoſition which is no way fit to be granted, (*viz.*) as if the *Intereſts* of the *Merchant, Marriner, and Artificer*, were not only oppoſite to, but wholly inconſiſtent with the *Intereſt* of the *Nobility, Gentry and Farmers*, whereas there is nothing more evident than the contrary; ſo that the whole *Argument* it ſelf falls for want of a Foundation. For the clearing of which let us conſider, That in as much as it is impoſſible that we ſhould defend our ſelves, as an Iſland, otherwiſe than by the ſtrength of our *Shipping*, and ſeeing this is much leſs poſſible to be done now at ſuch a juncture of time when our neareſt Neighbors do partly out of fear, and partly out of emulation multiply *Shipping* upon us, and uſe all endeavours that are poſſible to gain the Dominion of the Sea from us, it is hence clear that we muſt either ſay that the *Intereſt* of the *Nobility, Gentry and Farmer*, is not the ſame with the *Intereſt* of the *Nation*, or if it be the ſame with the intereſt of the *Nation*, it muſt be their *Intereſt* then to uphold the Trade and Shipping of this Countrey, and conſequently to uphold the Merchant.

But foraſmuch as all that underſtand *Trade*, do well know that all the Commerce of this *Nation* doth for the value and bulk of it intirely depend upon the *Woollen Manufacture*, conſequently it muſt be the *Intereſt* of the *Nobility, Gentry and Farmer* to uphold the *Woollen Manufacture*, as much as 'tis to uphold *Trade*, or to uphold the ſtrength of our Shipping by Sea. For what will the Lands of the *Nobility and Gentry* profit them, or what will become of the *Priviledges and Rights* of *Engliſhmen*, if through the loſs of our *Wollen Manufacture* we loſe our *Trade*, and if by the loſs of this we want Shipping to defend our ſelves?

To this *Argument* let us alſo add, that if there be no oppoſition between the *Intereſt* of the *Nobility and Gentry*, and the *Intereſt* of the *Farmer*, (as no man doth pretend there is) then there can be no oppoſition between the *Intereſt* of the *Nobility and Gentry*, and the *Intereſt* of the *Artificer* who works up the *Wooll* of all the Countrey.

For beſides the profit that doth ariſe to the *Nobility and Gentry* by the Houſes which are taken, and by the lands that are rented by the Clothiers, and by the *Workmen* under them, it's well known that the ſaid Clothiers and Workmen are ſerviceable to the Farmer, not only for the buying up his Wooll, but for the buying up all manner of Victuals alſo; by the which not only one but all the parts of the *Farmers* Rents come to be diſcharged, one *Clothier* employing not only one or two hundred perſons, but ſometimes one or two Thouſand; and conſequently, if we ſhall admit that there are in *England* not

above

above five thouſand *Clothiers*, and admit that each of theſe (one with another) do maintain but two hundred and fifty workmen, the whole will amount to upward of twelve hundred thouſand; wherefore if we ſhall allow for each of theſe people but four pounds per year, one with another, the whole will amount to between four and five Millions of pounds *ſterling* by the year, which yearly Sum the *Farmer* doth immediatly receive, and conſequently the *Nobility* and *Gentry* from the poor and contemptible *Artificer*, over and above what is further contributed by them to the *Shoomakers*, *Taylers*, and other *Trades*, that could not live and be maintained without them, nor the *Farmer* himſelf, if all theſe *Trades* ſhould fail.

And to the end that this Account may appear not only the more reaſonable, but the more demonſtrable, we ſhall here humbly offer three things to be conſidered.

Firſt, That divers perſons may be employed in Clothing whoſe ſtrength will no way ſerve them to be employed in husbandry; for as divers perſons, both women and children may be employed in ſorting, picking, mixing, Carding and ſpinning of wooll, whoſe bodies are, no way fit for the hard labour of husbandry; ſo by reaſon of this divers more perſons may be employed in a family about the Manufacture of the wooll than can any way poſſibly be employed about husbandry at all.

Secondly, In as much as the work relating to the ſorting, picking, mixing, carding and ſpining of wooll, depends not at all upon this or that ſeaſon of the year; hence there is a more conſtant employment from the Manufacture of wooll, than there can poſſibly be from that of husbandry of any kind.

3dly, *Whereas at husbandry, a man gains not in ſome Countreys above a groat or ſix pence a day, in other Countreys not above* 8 d. 10 d. *or* 12 d. *a day, and perhaps hath hardly work for* 4 *or* 5 *dayes in a week to maintain his whole family; it is quite contrary in the Manufacture of wooll, for ſeeing not only the men, but the women and children, are capable of ſome employment or other in the ſaid Manufacture, all that labour in it get more or leſs by it, and conſequently ſome families get not only* 10 *or* 12 *ſhillings, but ſome* 20 *or* 30 s. *per week: For though it be true that in ſuch Families, which do depend upon husbandry, the more children there are the more beggarly; yet it is quite otherwiſe in families depending upon the Manufacture of wooll, for there ſpeaking in general, the more children there be the more the Family gains, the better it is maintained.*

And theſe things premiſed it will be eaſie to ſee how much my Opponent in the very firſt entrance into his diſcourſe hath miſtaken himſelf.

For whereas he ſaith he cannot acknowledge that a Manufacture doth employ the poor, but rather doth make more poor than it finds, there can be nothing more contrary to truth, nor more contrary to matter of fact.

For ſeeing it is matter of fact, and a thing moſt evident in it ſelf, that the Manufacture of wooll doth as we have ſaid, not only employ many more than husbandry doth, but doth employ thoſe very perſons which are no way fit for husbandry;

bandry; and doth contribute plentifully to the livelihood and maintenance of them, even though they be but young persons; it is impossible then, that it should be true which my adversary Ignorantly pretends, that *Manufacture* should as such occasion more charge to Parishes than Husbandry. For though it be very true, where through any private or particular spleen to some Clothiers (or to their particular oppinions) there is a perfect discouragement put upon the *Manufacture* it self; the poor in that place may by reason of this easily be multiplyed; yet speaking properly, this is no way occasioned from the Manufacture it self, but from the disappointment that the said Manufacture doth meet with through the unreasonable humour of some persons that do emulate and discourage those who are Industrious in it.

And this leads us also to take notice of another mistake in my Opponent, and such as is no small one; which is, that in as much as it is matter of Fact, and such as may be clearly demonstrated, that there is at least, if not more than a *Million* of *Persons* young and old of both Sexes, employed in the Clothing Trade, and in as much as all that are thus employed are such as have their dependance solely and wholly upon the said *Manufacture*, without intermixing themselves in the labours of *Hedging*, *Ditching*, *Quick-setting*, and others the works belonging to *Husbandry*; it's hence evident howmuch my Opponent hath clearly mistaken himself, in supposing that though our *Cloathing Trade* should be lost, yet all the *Persons* that are now employed in it, might find work from the service of the *Farmer*.

For seeing it's matter of Fact that the *Farmer* is able to supply him self all the year, with as many Labourers, and more than he hath an occasion for, without so much as medling with, or requiring assistance of those who are now employed in the *Clothing Trade*, it must unavoidably follow, that if our *Manufacture* should be totally lost; as there will be above a *Million* of People that must either starve, or beg, or be put to the charge of the several Parishes, or be forced to steal, or rob, or leave the Kingdom; so it's as evident, that the *Farmer* after all this will not onely be less able to employ Labourers than he was before, but less able to pay his Landlord, by four or five *Millions* every year.

And when such an abatement as this shall be made of the *Farmers Income*, I shall leave it to any wise man then to consider, what will become of the price of Lands, or value of Rents, and how much this will advantage the *Grower* or *Breeder* of *wooll*.

And to make good this Computation, and free it from all suspition of slightiness, we shall further offer to consideration, that whatever is the true value of all the woollen *Manufacture* of *England*, the *Nobility*

lity Gentry, and *Commonalty* do receive among them, near, if not more than Nine parts of it in Ten. For in as much as all who are well acquainted with the *Clothing Trade*, do know that it is not a tenth part of the profit, nor ſometime the twentieth that is gained by the *Clothier* or firſt employer, who frequently loſeth of the very Intereſt of his money, conſequently it muſt of neceſſity follow, that nine of ten parts, if not 19 of 20 parts of the whole value of the ſaid *Manufacture* muſt be diſtributed to the Nation; ſo that admitting the whole *Woollen Manufacture* of this *Nation*, comprehending *Cloth*, *Stuffs*, *Bayes*, *Stockings*, and all other ſort of the ſaid *Manufacture*, do amount to four millions of pounds *ſterling* per year (more or leſs,) there will not come of that great ſum to the *Clothier* or firſt employer much above two hundred thouſand pounds (if ſo much;) ſo that three Millions and eight hundred thouſand pounds per year, muſt of neceſſity be diſtributed to the *Nation* by virtue of the ſaid Clothing Trade: whereof we cannot but ſuppoſe the *Farmers* and therefore the *Nobility and Gentry* muſt receive the greater part.

It is well known alſo that it is ſolely by our Trade that not only this great City of *London* it ſelf, but ſeveral other large Cities of this Nation do wholly depend, and which if our Trade were removed they would ſoon be deſerted by their reſpective Inhabitants..

And then we cannot but offer to conſideration where the *Nobility*, *Gentry or Farmers* would find a Market for their Commodities, or find a price anſwerable to them.

All which particulars I have been the larger in, to remove that miſtake which is almoſt as deſtructive to this Nation as the Peſtilence it ſelf, which is that mentioned by my Opponent, (*viz.*) *That the Intereſt of the Merchant or the Intereſt of the Clothier and Artificer is not conſiſtant with the Intereſt of the Nobility and Gentry*: the contrary being now made ſufficiently to appear.

My Opponents third Argument is, *That Wooll was at twelve l. per Pack in the year* 1647. *when it was Prohibited, and that in the following year it was ſold for* 16 *l. per Pack, but that Wool hath ever ſince by reaſon the ſaid Prohibition abated, as is pretended of the price of it and is now not worth above* 4 *or* 5 *pounds per pack.*

In which Argument there ſeems to be a failure in two reſpects, one as if the Wool of the Nation hath never bore any price ſince the time of the Prohibition, whereas it may be made appear that after the year 1650. Wooll bore a very conſiderable price from 10 l. per Pack to 24 l.

per Pack, according to the goodneſs of the ſaid Wool, and continued ſo for ſometime, which ſhews us another miſtake in his Arguments, as if the fall of the price of Wool were wholly to be aſcribed to the Prohibition of it, whereas indeed there are two other cauſes that are very evident. Firſt, From the diſcouragement that hath been put upon the *Clothier*, and upon the vent of our *Woollen Manufacture* by the *French Kings* Arbitrary impoſitions upon it, to the almoſt utter prohibition of it; whereby now there cannot be ſo much wrought of it as formerly, which had otherwiſe certainly been, and then no ſuch occaſion or pretence as this would haue been taken to complain of ſuperfluous Wool, and therefore as this cannot be denied to be a true cauſe why more of our Wool comes to be unwrought than formerly, ſo tis clear that thoſe very men that are now pleaded for by my Opponent, (I mean the ſtealers and tranſporters of Wool about *Canterbury*, and the places adjacent, not for neceſſity but for filthy greedineſs of gain & lucre) have highly contributed to it, notwithſtanding the *Laws* of the *Nation* againſt it, and notwithſtanding the ruine of the *Nation* that is daily Jeopardied by it; in which reſpect I cannot but confeſs that *Rumney Marſh* hath indeed created an intereſt by it ſelf, but it is ſuch an intereſt which neither is nor hath been conſiſtent with the intereſt of the *Nation*, nor with the intereſt of the *Nobility and Gentry* in general, ſo that the ſaid ſtealers or tranſporters of Wool have been the main and principal cauſe of both theſe inconveniences (*viz*) both of the loſs of our *Manufacture*, and the lowring the price of Wool.

The other cauſe of the fall of the price of Wool, eſpecially of late yeares, hath been the neceſſitating of *Ireland* to ſtock their *Paſture-grounds* with *Sheep* inſtead of great Cattel, and thoſe of the beſt breed of *England*, by which means, as Wool hath of late years been more increaſed than ever at any time before within his Majeſties Dominions; ſo the conſequence of this extraordinary increaſe (and not any fault in the *Clothier* or *Manufacturer*) is that which hath not only brought down the price, but hath occaſioned ſo great a quantity of it to be ſent abroad into forreign parts, as it bears now almoſt as ſmal a price beyond ſea as here, and therefore that in this Argument my Opponent hath aſſigned that for a cauſe which is no cauſe at all may clearly appear, becauſe it's matter of fact, that Wool bore as good a price if not a better (after the ſaid prohibition as it did before) for many *years* till that breach of Commerce was put upon us by the *French K.* which we before mentioned, and untill that unfortunate Act (for ſo I muſt humbly crave leave to call it) was made againſt the importing the

Iriſh

Iriſh Cattle, upon ſuppoſition that it would raiſe the price of land here in *England*, whereas the quite contrary effect hath been too much experienc'd (*viz*) That it hath laid ſuch a foundation for the impoveriſhing *England*, as will not quickly (I fear) be recovered.

4thly. The next thing al'edged by my Opponent, is, *That a limited Exportation of Wooll will be more for the advantage of our Woollen Trade, and leſs for that beyond the Sea, than the hindering of it hath been.*

Which aſſertion if my Opponent had really, ſufficiently and effectually made good, he might juſtly have merited the name, for being the greateſt maſter of reaſon in *England*.

And indeed ſeeing a paradox more ſtrang and more hard to be conceived, could not eaſily be ſtated, I could not but expect that ſome Arguments more remarkable than ordinary would immediately have followed it; but finding (contrary to my expectations) nothing beyond a bare affirmation that if ſtrangers had a liberty to buy what Wooll ſoever they pleaſe, they would pay dearer for it, by much than now they do, and that our *Clothiers* would therefore have it the cheaper, and by this advantage would be able to under-ſel, the ſtrangers in their *Manufacture*,

I ſay finding little or nothing more to be brought either by way of Reaſon or of Argument to maintain this paradox, I was ſoon convinced that it remained as uncapable to be proved as it was before, and a little to evidence the improbability of the ſaid conſequence, we ſhall here offer ſome few reaſons to the contrary, and firſt. I crave leave to ſay, That it is no way likely that the Grower in any part of *England*, ſhould not be willing to get the utmoſt price for his Wooll that he can, and therefore not likely that any Grower whatſoever will ſell his wool to the Natives of this *Countrey*, for a leſs price than he preſumes he may have of ſtrangers, and therefore not at all likely that our own *Manufacturers* ſhould buy it cheaper than others.

2. Admitting that it ſhould be made unlawful for any ſtranger to buy up wool till ſuch a Time or Seaſon of the year to the end that our *Clothiers* might firſt provide themſelves of what they need, yet it would no way follow but ſtrangers may have their *Agents* and *Factors* here, that may purchaſe it at the ſame eaſe, with the ſame conveniency, and at the ſame rates that our *Clothiers* are like to do; nor can I perceive any thing propounded by my *Opponent* that would be able in the leaſt either to prevent it or to obviate it. But,

Thirdly, And this great ommiſſion in my Opponent I could not but take the more notice of, becauſe if no expedient can be found out by him (which I doubt there will not) to prevent *Strangers* from giving what Commiſſions, they pleaſe to buy up what quantities of wooll ſoever they ſhall think fit, here in this *Countrey*, as I ſee not how or by what means the Exportation of our Wooll ſhould be any way poſſibly limited, ſo neither do I ſee how the *Clothiers* here ſhould be ſufficiently and certainly furniſhed, or how the *Manufacture* it ſelf ſhould be capable of being any way preſerved, and if theſe miſchiefs, and inconveniences cannot but follow, and cannot but be neceſſary conſequences of ſuch a Law, as is propounded by my Opponent; and that nothing to obviate or prevent theſe inconveniences hath been either regarded, or ſo much as attempted by him; I cannot but take it to be a very great blot to his judgment, barely and boldly to offer at ſuch a thing, which is attended with ſo much hazard.

But Fourthly, Becauſe my Opponent ſeems to put his cheifeſt ſtreſs in this, (*viz.*) *That a large Cuſtom may be put upon all wooll that is exported by Strangers, and that at leaſt by this means they may come to pay double the price of what our Clothiers do, and not only ſo, but by this means alſo his Majeſty may receive an advantage by the Cuſtom that is impoſed upon it.*

To try the weight or ſtrength of this expedient, or rather to ſhew the vanity of it. Let us ſuppoſe that 3*d.* or 4*d.* per pound ſhall by a Law be impoſed upon all wool that ſhall be ſhipped out by *Strangers* or others, as it will not follow that the ſaid Cuſtom ſhould be paid to his Majeſtie for the one half of the wooll, that ſhall be ſo ſhipt out ſeeing under the colour of 100 packs many hundred may be exported. So this will much the leſs follow from the very obſervation which my Opponent himſelf hath made, of the nature and temper of the *Stealers* or *Tranſporters* of Wool; for if as he confeſſeth they will be contented with 12*d.* a day profit ſo they may play the Merchants, and if they are content to run the hazard of their necks, and to be tryed as Fellons, for ſo ſmall a matter as this amounts to, which cannot be above 8 or 10*s.* upon a pack, how much more then will they been encouraged to ſteal the Cuſtom of it when their excuſe ſhall be fairer and their advantage much greater, and the hazard leſs a hundred times than now it is.

But in the fifth and laſt place, Let us admit for Arguments ſake, that 4*l.* was impoſed upon every pack of Wool that was tranſported, and

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let us admit that all this Custom was duly paid, yet I see not the least ground, for my Opponents confidence that we shall for this cause be able to undersell the *French* in the *Woollen Manufacture.*

For beside that the nature of their *Manufacture* being but slight. and such as takes up much less wool than ours doth, and a great part of their warps being made of their fine spun Linnen and their own course wool I say besides this the impossions that have been of late Arbitrarily put upon all our woollen *Manufacture* in *France*, and considering also there is no Custom at all put upon wooll there when imported both these will utterly prevent our selling the said *Manufacture* there cheaper than the *French* can make it, though they shall give not only double but treble the price that we our selves do give for wooll.

5thly. The next thing alledged by my Opponent is, *That our Forefathers did never prohibit the Transportation of wooll unless upon some great occasion, and for a certain Season, till of late years, for making good of which a summary of several Statutes, are brought from the time of* Edw. *the* 3d. *downwards to our own times.*

For answer to all which Statutes, I shall make use of no other argument than what my Opponent himself hath put into my mouth, which is that wooll was for many ages, by the wisdom of the Government, at least very often prohibited; and that whensoever the Government it self saw there was a greater occasion than ordinary for it, they did always prohibit it; and consequently if the Interest of the Nation at present be such and the circumstances relating to our Neghbours about us, be not only so great, but so instant and importune that these two considered there will be much more reason, and much more necessity for the prohibiting of it now than formerly.

Then all that my Opponent labours at in producing instances of other kinds and where the circumstances are not the same falls wholly to the ground.

For the clearing of which, let us consider that the circumstances peculiar to this present time is, That we have not only been possessed for many ages of the Manufacturing of our wooll but have of late so improved our Trade and Commerce by it, that we have exported it by shipping of our own, not only into *France, Portugal and Spain*, but into *Italy, Turkey*, and to the most remote parts of the World.

By which means as our wealth came greatly to encrease, so we our selves became more powerful in Shipping than ever, which greatness

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of our *Trade* and the ſtrength of our *Shipping* being not only obſerved, but forthwith emulated by ſome of our *Neighbours*, and ſeing it was likewiſe, clearly diſcerned, that the cheifeſt means for the maintenance of it proceeded from our *woollen Manufacture*, as the *Hollander* therefore firſt, ſo the *French* ſince, have by many undue Lawes and preſſures upon us, contrary to the ancient treatie s of Peace and Commerce, endeavoured to rob the ſaid *Manufacture* from us.

Nor is the ſtate of the conteſt now at preſent between us only, who ſhall have the Trade, but who is fitteſt to have the ſtrength and dominion of the Sea.

Wherefore if my Opponent be not only an *Iſlander*, but ſo much an *Engliſh Man*, and be ſo true a Subject to the intereſt of his Majeſty, which I doubt not but he is, as to think there is none ſo fit as his Majeſty is to command the Sea, then my *Opponent* muſt of neceſſity grant that nothing ought at this time to be done by us that may hazard the greatneſs of our Trade and Commerce, and conſequently that nothing ought to be ſuffered by us (ſo far as we are able in any wiſe to prevent it) that may either leſſen or indanger our *woollen Manufacture*, and conſequently if nothing can ſo much hazard it, and hazard the very loſs of our Trade and of the Dominion of the Sea it ſelf through it, as the countenancing and contributing to the *woollen Manufacture* now ſet up in *France*, then this is not to be done by us, but is rather, if we will purſue the intereſt of the Nation by all means to be prevented by us.

And conſequently till my Opponent ſhall be able to make it appear, that the Dominion of the Sea, if loſt will be no great harm to us, or till he make it appear that we are able to keep the Dominion of the *Sea* even notwithſtanding our *Trade and Commerce* ſhould be utterly loſt, and notwithſtanding our *woollen Manufacture* ſhould be wholly carried away by our Neighbours:

Or till he makes it appear by other arguments than hitherto he hath done, that the *French* though they increaſe their *woollen Manufacture* will neither be able to underſell us abroad, nor be able to prevent our *Clothes* and *Stuffs* from going into *France* as formerly:

I ſay till my Opponent ſhall be able to make good all theſe things, I muſt crave leave to differ from him wholly, and plainly to affirm on the contrary, Firſt that the Tranſportation of *Wooll*, if allowed by a Law can no way be limited.

Becauſe if the Tranſportation of *Wooll* ſhall be allowed by a Law,

no

no means, (ſpeaking rationally) is able to prevent the *Hollanders*, *Flandrians*, and *French* to give each of them ſuch Commiſſions as they pleaſe, to buy up here what quantity of wool ſoever they ſhall think fit.

Secondly, In regard that this can no way be prevented, and that my *Opponent* himſelf offers not the leaſt grain of an expedient towards it; I therefore farther affirm, that it cannot appear that our *Clothiers* or *Manufacturers* here, ſhould have the leaſt priviledge above the ſtranger, either in point of proviſion, or in point of price.

Thirdly, That our Clothier, or Manufacturer here, muſt of neceſſity have a far greater diſadvantage, with reference to the furniſhing himſelf, than the ſtranger abroad, in regard it cannot be thought, he ſhould be able to raiſe any ſuch ſtock of money as the ſtranger can, to prevent the ſtrangers Foreſtalling of him; and conſequently if it be lawful to talk reaſon, there can be no ground to imagine, that our *Manufacture* ſhould not in ſhort time be utterly loſt, and this being loſt, as our Trade and Strength at Sea muſt be inevitably loſt with it, ſo not only the Honour, Wealth and Rents, but the very priviledges Liberty and Property of this Nation muſt be hazarded to ſuch ſtrangers as ſhall carry away the Trade, and Strength from us.

As to the next Allegation, made by my *Opponent*, *viz. That the Tranſportation of Wooll, will better His Majeſties Cuſtomes*; I ſee but little in it that may require my Anſwer to it, in as much, as I have ſpoken already to this under the fourth head; Nevertheleſs, I muſt crave leave to ſay, that my *Opponent* here alſo goeth upon an Extraordinary miſtake, it being not at all in diſpute between us, whether his Majeſties *Cuſtomes* would be bettered, if a Subſidy were paid only for that wooll that is now Exported, inſtead of having it all ſtolen: But the diſpute between us ſtrictly is, what His Majeſties Cuſtomes will hereafter amount to comparatively to what they at preſent now are, in caſe there ſhould be a Law for the free and unlimited Exportation of Wooll, and that by reaſon of this Law and the *Conſequences* that muſt follow from it, our Woollen Manufacture ſhall come to be wholy and entirly loſt: for it becomes not a wiſe man (and ſuch, I muſt in Civility Judge my *Opponent* to be) in making ſuch propoſals as tend to the altering of Lawes, to look at the preſent only, but to look more Principally at the time to come.

And

And therefore it is not in this caſe at all to be conſidered what the advantage will be that may come to his Majeſties *Cuſtome*, for a few Moneths, or a ſingle year, but it is to be conſidered, what the advantage or diſadvantage, will be to His Majeſties *Cuſtomes*, for the time to come; admitting theſe inconveniences, which I have before mentioned to be unavoidable, from the Law, which is propounded by my *Opponent*.

Beſides my *Opponent* cannot doubtleſs be ſo ignorant, as not to have conſidered, that the greatneſs of his Majeſties *Cuſtomes* (which is at this day greater than ever) is not at all raiſed comparatively from the export but from the Import, which is 10 if not 20 times greater than the Export, the value of all which Import muſt proportionally fall as the quantity of our *Manufacture* ſhall fail to be carried out, and as our raw and unwrought wooll alone ſhall in ſtead of it be Exported, and conſequently to pretend that by ſuch a Law as is deſired, his Majeſties *Cuſtomes* would be advanced, is either greatly to betray ignorance, or greatly to betray the Revenue of the Cuſtomes it ſelf.

The next thing Alledged by my *Opponent* is, *That the cauſe of the decay of our Clothing doth not lie in the Exportation of our wool, but on the contrary*, (viz.) *becauſe our wool is no more freely Exported than it is*, and that we may be ſure not to miſtake his ſenſe, herein he further Adds, *That in as much as the decay and fall of our Manufacture comes properly from the prohibition of our wool, the ſtopping or hindering therefore of our wool to go out, is but the applying to our Deſeaſe a wrong Remedy.*

Which Argnment if it had been brought by a ſtranger we ſhould immediately have turned it into merriment, as ſuppoſing he did intend by it to drole and make ſport with us, or ſuppoſing that he thought us ſuch meer Children, as that any thing would eaſily chouſe us, but being brought by a Gentleman, and an Engliſh man, I confeſs I could not poſſibly think what might be the meaning of it, unleſs it were that my Opponent was reſolved to croſs the proverb for a while, and by a peice of wit to make it appear that it is not alwayes true, *that Intereſt cannot lye*; for that nothing can be more contrary to truth than what is here alledged, or more againſt the intereſt of the *Nation*, and of an *Engliſh* man than what is here aſſerted, (if that be the very intereſt of my *Opponent*) is moſt clear.

For if it be true which my *Opponent* ſaith, that the decay of our *Cloathing Trade* is not from our *Exportation* of *wooll*, but rather the contrary, becauſe no more of our wooll is carried out raw, and un-

unmanufactured, it must follow then, that by how much the more our wool is thus exported, by so much the more our manufacture will not only be preserved but encouraged, and the reason for this must needs be, that if we are once rid of our wool, and have got a good price for it, we need not trouble our heads so far as to imagine that they who buy it will do any thing with it, but only will lay it up to look upon it.

For if we shall seriously believe that they will have so much wit as to make use of it, and to make use of it as becomes Rational persons in order to the increase of their own *Cloathing* by it, we cannot be so sottish as to think that they do then intend after this to buy our *manufacture* any more, but do on the contrary design to prevent, and shut out the Importation of it, as a thing not expedient for them.

And if this, and no other be really the intent of buying up our wooll by our Neighbours, then must it not necessarily follow that by how much the more wool they have, by so much the more *Manufacture* they will make for the furnishing themselves, and furnishing their Neighbours, by so much the less place, or possibility there will be that we should be able to furnish them, and by so much the greater stop must of necessity be put to the vending our *Cloathes* and is it not plain that by how much the less we vend our *manufacture*, by reason of the increase of it abroad in other places, by so much the more our *manufacture* must decay: not only in point of the price, but in point of its necessity and use?

And is it not then as manifest that by how much our *manufacture* decayes, our *Trade* must decay, and our Wealth must decay, and the Strength of our Shipping must decay, and we our selves must be the more made a scorn, a prey, and a laughing-stock by it to our Neighbours.

And if all this be not for the Interest of the Nation but the contrary wholly, is it not plain that my Opponent seeing he is an Englishman, and seeing it is for the interest of the Nation that he writes, doth cross the proverb, and give us a demonstration by his thus arguing, that Interest may now and then lye, though not alwayes?

But in the next place to try whether my Opponent be in earnest or not, let me humbly beg of him, to tell me truly, why those naughty men that usurped the Government in the year, 1647. did upon such penalties strictly prohibit the Exportation of our woolls if he saith, it was because they were only not Rebells, but Men of no Reason, and understood not the Interest of the Nation; will he not by this brand

many of the Parliament alſo that now ſits? who though they did not confirm the Rebels Law, did think fit at leaſt to make a new Law to the ſame purpoſe, even ſoon after his Majeſties moſt Happy Reſtauration.

Granting then that the Laws now in force of the 12. and 14. of His Majeſties Reign, were not made by other than by the wiſeſt and moſt Loyal Perſons of this Nation, the ſaid Perſons muſt conſequently have ſome grounds or other for making the ſaid Laws, and if we may gueſs at their grounds by their own words in the preambles of the ſaid Laws, they appear mainly to be theſe three following. *viz.*

1. *For the ſetting on work the Inhabitants of this Realm.*

2. *For the improving the Native Commodities of this Countrey to its beſt, fulleſt, and utmoſt uſe.*

3. *And that the Advantage accruing hereby might redound to the Subjects of this Kingdom and not to the Subjects of Forreign Realms, as hitherto, and as it would and muſt otherwiſe.*

Wherefore either theſe their grounds when the ſaid Laws were made, were either good and ſufficient motives for the prohibiting our wooll, and for the laying ſo great a penalty upon ſuch as ſhould export it, or they were not: if my Opponent ſhall ſay they were not good and ſufficient grounds, then he muſt ſay that the Wiſdom of thoſe Honourable and Royal Perſons, who at that time ſerved in Parliament, were indeed not much better than that of the uſurpers of the Government in the year 1647.

But if the ſaid grounds were good, valid, and ſufficient, and ſuch as did both regard and comprehend the true and ſincere Intereſt of the Nation, then my Opponent muſt confeſs the ſaid Laws ought to ſtand, or he muſt ſhew wherein the caſe is altered now, from what it was then, with reference to the ſaid motives or grounds that the ſaid Parliament then went upon in making the ſaid Laws.

Firſt, If my Opponent can make it appear by Letters that he hath lately received, that the *Hollanders* hath laid down the *Woollen manufacture*, and that they in *France* are altogether grow ſick and weary of it, and that the *French King* hath wholly forbidden it, and hath releaſed all the Impoſitions that he hath of late years put upon it, then I muſt needs

needs confeſs the caſe is altered, and that the ſaid Laws ought juſtly to be repealed; or,

Secondly, If my Opponent hath received information from ſure and good hands, that the *Hollanders* make uſe of no other wool than that of their own growth, though they breed no Sheep; and that he hath alſo received information from good and ſure hands, that the *French* make uſe only of their own wool in all their Manufacture; or,

Thirdly, If my *Opponent* can make it appear that the ſetting on work the Inhabitants of this Realm is not now a thing ſo convenient or fit as it was when the ſaid Acts were made; or,

Fourthly, if the improving the Native Commodities of this Countrey to its beſt, and utmoſt uſe be found by experience to be no good Policy but to bring many inconveniences with it; or

Fifthly, if it be much more adviſeable that *Forreigners* ſhould go away with the gain of our *Manufactures*, and with the ſweet of our *Trade*, rather than that his Majeſties Subjects ſhould have it, in all theſe caſes I muſt confeſs it muſt inevitably be for the Intereſt of the Nation to repeal the ſaid Acts and lay them aſide.

But on the other hand if none of all theſe five caſes can poſſibly be put, and that thoſe very reaſons and grounds do ſtill remain, and are the ſame now which they were when the ſaid Acts were made.

Then my Opponents motion to repeal the ſaid Laws, muſt be againſt the Intereſt of the *Nation* or Intereſt doth not alwayes ſpeak true; which was the Paradox intended to be argued by my *Opponent*.

As it is clear then by both theſe Arguments, that my *Opponent* hath wholly miſtaken himſelf in the cauſe of our *Manufactures* decay, ſo to evidence yet farther the manifeſtneſs and palpableneſs of this miſtake, we affirm that it is matter of Fact that our *Woollen Manufacture* did greatly increaſe after the ſaid Prohibition of wool in the year 1647. For at leaſt 16 or 18 years together, and not only increaſed but bore a good price, and that I may not be found like ſome others, who regard not the credit of what they affirm, (and particularly like him who hath contracted the Arguments of my Opponent, and hath publiſhed them together in one ſheet of paper) I ſhall to juſtifie what I ſay, appeal for the truth of it not only to the Cuſtomhouſe-

Books, and to the quantity of the *Woollen Manufacture* there entred, but to the *Gentry* themſelves: and to the price that Land bore, and Victualls bore for many years together after the ſaid prohibition, and to the plenty of Money that was then in the Land.

Yea as our Manufacture did increaſe for many years together, after the ſaid prohibition of the Exportation of wool, ſo it had to this day ſtill increaſed, had not thoſe Accidents happened that laid ſo effectual a foundation for the ruine of it, as it was neither in the power of the *Clothier* nor in the power of the Grower to prevent, I mean thoſe new and immoderate Taxes which were laid upon our *Manufacture* by the *French King*, on purpoſe to encourage his own workmen to gain the ſaid *Manufacture* from us; and on purpoſe to prevent our *Clothes and Stuffs* from being brought into his Countrey, although we yearly take of his Commodities to the value of above a Million of Pounds, *ſterling*; and I mean in the ſecond place, the making of that unfortunate Act againſt the Importation of *Iriſh* Cattle, which hath not only tended to the Ruine of the Grower, but to the Ruine of the *Clothier*, and to the Ruine of very *Trade* of *England* it ſelf; and which if it ſhould continue to ſtand unrepealed, muſt neceſſarily and inevitably Ruine more and more both the *Gentry*, *Merchant*, and *Clothier* every day.

And therefore as a further proof to what I ſay I ſhall give one inſtance in ſtead of many and leave the truth of it to be ſtrictly examined and judged accordingly; which is, that ſince the ſaid Accidents have befallen us, (I mean of the *French Kings* Arbitrary impoſitions upon us, and that Act againſt the Importation of *Iriſh* Cattle) *Exeter* alone, hath loſt of what it did formerly vend, near if not above three hundred thouſand pounds *ſterling*, every year: and if we ſhall reckon proportionably from all other *Counties and Cities*, we ſhall then eaſily ſee there is a juſt ground for the decay of our woollen manufacture, and for the fall of the price of our wooll by it, and for the fall and ruine of our Rents, not as my Opponent alleadgeth by reaſon of the prohibition of tranſporting our wool, but truly and really by reaſon of the multiplication and increaſe of our wool, to that degree, that the Exportation of it hath almoſt been neceſſary.

The ſerious conſideration of which true and real cauſe of the decay of our manufacture, I ſhall humbly leave to the Wiſdom of the Parliament.

And ſhall likewiſe leave it to their Wiſdom to be conſidered, whether in this conjuncture of affairs, and according to the circumſtances which

which now attend us, while our Neighbours do not only emulate us, but are become actual Rivals with us not only for Clothing but for our Trade it ſelf; and for our Strength and Dominion at Sea, we ſhall or ought ſo far to contribute towards the deſign, and towards the certainty and effectualneſs of our own Ruine, as either to repeal our Acts that prohibit the exportation of wool, or to let that unfortunate Act ſtand, which makes the tranſporting of wool obſolutely neceſſary, whether we will or no, and by this means makes our Neighbours ſcorn the Commerſe and Trade that they formerly had with us, and thanked us for it.

And whereas my *Opponent* doth lay a great ſtreſs upon the falſe making of our *Manufacture*, as one main cauſe of the decay of it; I cannot but confeſs there hath been too much, and too great cauſe for this complaint, formerly, while thoſe good Lawes for the ſealing of Clothes in the water, and for acertaining the length of them, were wholly eluded through the negligence and corruption of the *Aulnager*, but though this abuſe hath not to this day been redreſſed, yet there hath been ſo great an alteration in the making of our Cloth within this thirty years, I ſay again within this thirty years, even ſince that naughty Act that commenced in the year 1647; that neither *Dutch* nor *French* do come near us, either for the Accurateneſs and Goodneſs of our Workmanſhip, or for the honeſty, and Integrity that is uſed in making both of Clothes, Stuffs, and Bays.

And that I may here alſo vindicate the Credit of what I ſay, and that it may be clear, I ſpeak nothing but Truth, I ſhall appeal to the moſt conſiderable Dealers in all *London*, either as *Merchants*, *Drapers*, or *Mercers*, whether there be not many *Clothiers*, many *Stuff* and *Bay-makers*, who though they be under no Check at all at preſent, do nevertheleſs ſo value their Name, their Word, and their Repute, that they dare adventure all the Commodity they make, to be forfeited, is it do not prove in every reſpect as Long, as Broad, and as truly made, and as well qualified, as they ſell it for, which is a thing ſo well known as though none will now truſt to the Seal of the *Aulnager*, or to the Common Stamps in uſe formerly; yet there are many both *Drapers*, *Mercers*, and *Merchants*, who will truſt to the private mark of divers Clothiers with leſs ſcruple than they will truſt to the ſtamp of ſome Coyn.

Yea I ſhould much wrong the generallity of the Cloathiers of *England* if I ſhould not upon this occaſion profeſſedly declare (and whoever deny-

denyeth it will greatly injure them) that ſuch is the ſenſe which they themſelves have had for divers years, how much it is for their Intereſt, and for the Name, and Honour of the *Engliſh Nation* it ſelf, To keep up an exact goodneſs in all the *Woollen Manufacture* of this Kingdom, that they have for many years, not onely ſollicited the Parliament, that they might be Incorporated in each County, And that none might be admitted to take upon them the making of Cloath and all other woollen *Manufactures*, but ſuch only as ſerving a due number of years to learn the profeſſion of it, might be ſufficiently verſed and skilled in it; But they have for many years deſired alſo that all and every the ſorts of woollen *Manufacture*, might be brought to ſuch a certainty of Regulation for the length and breadth of each *Manufacture*, and for the true making of it; that it may not be in the power of any unskilfull perſon to falſifie it, But that by marks of their own, as is uſed in the *Colcheſter* Bayes, all manner of cheats and defects ſhould be openly ſignified; which propoſals, if they might be hearkned unto, might ſoon be effected; and made practical through a ſtanding Councel, eſtabliſhed to no other end than for the *Cloathing-Trade*, with power only to receive ſuch propoſals as are to be made by the *Clothiers*, and their reſpective *Factors* here relating to each County; and to prepare the ſaid Propoſals into diſtinct Acts againſt the Parliament ſhall be next convened; than which I humbly conceive there is ſcarſe any thing can be inſtanced that might, or would tend more to the General good and advantage of this Nation, and to the promoting and recovering of our *Manufacture* again, and conſequently for the conſumption and advancing the price of our Wool, which is the thing mainly my *Opponent* ſeems to drive at, and in that we ſhall agree.

But here my *Opponent* may perhaps ſay, that after all I cannot deny but there is a ſurplus of wool which cannot be wrought up by the *Clothiers*, and that I offer'd not one word how it ſhould for the future be diſpoſed of.

To which I anſwer, Firſt that it appeareth not by any thing which my *Opponent* hath hitherto ſaid, at leaſt not by any thing that he hath hitherto proved, That the *Clothier* either cannot or doth not work up the wool of the proper growth of *England* to the full of it, but if a far greater quantity of wool be brought into *England* from *Ireland* then ever before was brought untill of late years, as the *Clothier* cannot be reſponſible for his not buying up all the wool which is ſent into *England*, ſo neither can he or ought he to be reſponſible for the glut

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proceeding from the importation of it, or for the cheapneſs of the ſaid wool, by reaſon of the ſaid glut.

Secondly, If the proper and only way for removing all evil effects, be to remove their reſpective cauſes, and that this is and muſt be acknowledged by all rational Perſons, then conſidering what we have ſaid before, and not only ſaid but proved and made it to appear, *viz.* That the cauſe of that ſurplus of wool, (with the cheapneſs of it at preſent) among us is partly from the *Iriſh* Act that prohibiteth the bringing in of Live Cattle, and puts that Kingdom upon the breeding of wool whether they will or no, and partly by the decay of our *manufacture* through the ſupply that we our *Selves* do make to our *Neighbours* of our own wool, for the promoting of their *Manufacture* to the ruine of our *Selves*.

The proper remedy then for the removing the cheapneſs of our *wool* on the one hand, and for employing our *Poor*, and recovering our *Trade* on the other hand, muſt neceſſarily be the ſtopping the exceſſive *Growth* of it in *Ireland*, and as ſtrictly ſtopping, and reſtreining the export of it from *Ireland*, and from hence.

And here I muſt take the boldneſs to ſay again what I have in part ſaid already in my ſecond Argument, (*viz.*) *That where a Nation is not rich in Mines of Gold and Silver, it is not capable to be inriched by any other way then by its Manufactures.*

And conſequently if it be from our *Manufactures* alone that the Riches of this *Nation* comes; and if it be from our *Manufacture* chiefly that our Shipping is employed, and our *Marriners* bred, if it be from our *Trading* alone, and from the riches, which our *Trading* brings in, that His Majeſties Cuſtoms are raiſed, and that our *Fleet* have been hitherto *Built* and *Maintain'd*, and the *Dominion of the Seas* hath been preſerved, than it is muſt be from our *Manufacture* only that our *Bullion* hath been brought in, and that the Rents of our *Nobility and Gentry* doth depend and are ſuſtained.

And therefore if it muſt be granted me that there is no higher Intereſt in the *Nation*, then that which preſerves his *Majeſties Cuſtoms*, and that which ſuſtains the *Nobility and Gentries Rents*, and that which ſupports our *Navy and Shipping*.

Then in regard *our manufacture* alone doth do all this, *our manufacture alone*, and the encouragement of it muſt neceſſarily be the greater *Intereſt of the Nation*, it ſelf; and I muſt crave leave to ſay that whoever placeth it in any thing elſe (as the circumſtances of this *Nation* ſtands at preſent) muſt either miſtake the *Intereſt of this Nation*,

Wherefore if it be granted by the wiſeſt of *Lawyers*, that a miſchief is better then an inconvenience, ſome private men ought to ſuffer rather then the whole *Nation*. Which I humbly conceive is a ſolid, and a ſufficient anſwer to my *Opponent* as to this part of his objection.

Suppoſing alſo that *our Manufacture* and the encouraging of it, is the main and cheif, if not the ſole and only *Intereſt of this Nation*, then as no *Intereſt* beſides can, or ought in reaſon to ſtand in competition with it, ſo much leſs the *Iriſh Act*, without the repealing of which nevertheleſs it is ſimply impoſſible, that either *our Manufacture*, or that the *Trade or Navigation* of this *Kingdom* ſhould be preſerved.

For if there be no reaſon to make a Law that they muſt ſtarve in *Ireland*, there can be no reaſon to forbid their breeding of *Sheep*, if we will not let them employ their *Lands* in the breeding of *Live Cattle*. Admitting alſo that the *Paſture Lands* of *Ireland* are proportionable to the bigneſs of that *Kingdom*, far larger then the *Paſture Lands* of *England*, as they are and muſt neceſſarily be, partly through the ſmallneſs of their Tillage (their *Corn* being not capable to be exported) and partly through the thinneſſe of their Inhabitants, and it muſt neceſſarily follow, that theſe being converted moſtly to the feeding of *Sheep* muſt breed a vaſt quantity of wool, and ſuch as muſt equal if not exceed the quantity breed in *England* by our *Selves*.

Wherefore it muſt needs be plain to every perſon, that not only the breeding of wool, but the diſpoſing of it, and the diſpoſing of it to moſt advantage, is now become the *Intereſt of the Nobility*, *Gentry*, *Yeomandry*, and of all others whatever that have a concern in *Ireland*, which if it were poſſible to prevent, it ought to be allowed to none beſides *our ſelves*, whoſe whole proper and entire *Intereſt* it is to be ſole *Manufacturers* or *Workers* of it.

The *Breeding*, *Growing*, *Diſpoſing* and *Improving* of wool being now by *our ſelves* made the entire *Intereſt of Ireland* who deſired it not of us, and would have been very well content without it, if we cannot deſire their *Nobility* or *Gentry* to burn their wool, we cannot then deny them to take all ſuch Lawful and juſt courſes whereby they may improve their wool.

Wherefore ſeeing theſe courſes can be but two ways, either to ſend it where it moſt wanting, and where it will yield the beſt price, which is to *our Neighbors* to improve and increaſe their *Manufacture*, or elſe to keep it themſelves, and *manufacture* it up in that *Countrey*.

And ſeeing one of theſe courſes are wholly, inevitable and that both

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one; and the other do not only tend, but must and will certainly and effectually bring an utter destruction to the Trade, Commerce, Strength, Shipping and Navigation of this Kingdom; we have small reason to expect our Neighbours the *Dutch*, or our Neighbours the *French* should help us, or pity us, when we do willfully contribute to the Ruin of our selves, and may (if we will) either prevent it, or easily Remedy it.

And indeed if our All be at Stake, by reason of the countinuance of that unfortunate Act; and if this All, I mean the very Interest of the Nation it self, will not move us to alter it, I think it would be very Impertinent to insist upon Lesser Arguments.

And therefore though it would be for the Interest of the Nation greatly, to Arrest this occasion, I mean the Cheapness of the Wooll, to beat out our Neighbours in the Forreign Trade of our Manufactures, by under-selling them at least abroad.

And though this might now more easily be done than ever, seeing our Manufacture is Improved of late years in the Goodness of it, and might soon as we said before be brought to an Absolute perfection.

And though it be but Equal and Just to forbid the Commodities of those Countreys that are near us, who refuse to deal with us for our Commodities or by *Exorbitant* and *Arbitrary* Imposition laid upon them do in effect prohibit them; and though the doing of this, is but agreeable to the Rules of Justice, and to the Law of Nations, and Law of Commerce.

Though also it cannot be denied that it must be greatly consistant with the Publick Good of the Nation to make Sumptuary Lawes, and to restrain the Excess that is at present among us; yet I must humbly crave Leave to say that this is but like the taking much pains to stop the Leaks of a Barrel and let the Liquor run out at the Bung: For these are all Petty things to the Main Concern of the Nation, which must be Ruined, and Ruined as I humbly conceive irrecoverably, if the *Irish* Act doth stand.

FINIS.

Postscript.

That the reader may see I am not any way Byas'd in this discourse, And that he may perceive the sense of some English *Merchants beyond the Seas, about the prejudice coming to this Nation by the Exportation of our Wool, I have thought it convenient to Insert here again, the Coppyes of some Letters sent about that subject, which I formerly published.*

Lile, March the 16. 1668.

SIR,

WE have here a miserable Tarriff lately come forth, that Taxes Serges, at 25 Florens per hundred weight, Cloth at 40, Cottens Rashes and Kersies at 10 Florens per *C.* weight; the French shew little respect to the King of *England* in this; The misery is, the great quantity of Wool that is Stollen out from England, into France, which makes them Audacious; and at the Burrean they will tell you down right, that the Wollen Fabricks of England, are altogether unnecessary in his Majestie of *France* his Dominions, because they say they can make as good, or better themselves; But if they had not our wooll they would not say so: thus we English have our throats cut with our own weapons, and I wonder there is no one in England sensible of this grand evil, as to demonstrate it to his Majesty and Councill in England; in time strangers will not care two pence for our English Wollen Manufacture; Holland drawes from *Ireland* whole Ships Lading of Wooll, besides what comes from England, being Stollen out from the Kentish, Essex and Sussex Coasts, into France, Holland, Zealand, and Flanders, Dover, and Canterbury being the only nest to Harbour such Night-Rogues, who are as so many Wolves to devour the Glory and well being of our Nation; which no Law *I* perceive will restrain them Like Hempen Halters.

Lile, 26. *April*, 1670.

THE *French* are now got into a way of making a Low price sort of Cloth, called *Serge-de-berry*, which comes as cheap as Northern Cloath, and of much better wooll, it is about 5 quarters broad; they have so much, in which they have Cloathed a great Number of their Souldiers; And now the King of *France* hath lately made an order, to injoyn the Fabrickers to make it of the same breadth as English Broad Cloth, so our Low priced Cloath is like to come to nothing, and all made of English Wooll; by which our English-men have the reputation, as they will betray their Fathers for two pence, it is no marvel that they will betray their Countrey.

Lile

Lile, March the 5th. 1671.

Sir.

I Received yours, the 27*th* of *February*, under Covert, from about the Woolll-affair I have much reaſon to believe, unleſs ſome are made examples, there will be continuall abuſe; the Commodity, both Engliſh and Iriſh, Raw and Combed, abound ſo much in theſe Countries, as at preſent it's worth nothing; that is to ſay, there is apparent loſs by it, I my ſelf have at this time, ſeverall Baggs of Iriſh wooll; for which I am proffered but 6 Stivers the pound, By which you may Judge of the quantity in the Countrey, I took this wooll in Truck from an Iriſh Merchant, and gave him eight and half Stiver per pound for it, thinking to have made a good bargain; And it was worth little leſs, when I firſt had it. And by the abundance ſince here, and in other parts arrived, it's fallen as you ſee two Stivers per pound. At which price I will not ſell it; yet the neceſſity both for Raw, and Comb'd wooll, is ſo great; and without which theſe people cannot make abundance of Fabricks; as for that which is worth now but 6 or 7, they would be contented to give 15 ra- rather than want. And for the Combed wooll, moſt of which comes from *Dover*, and *Canterbury* Tranſporters, *Calice*, *Deepe*, *St. Vallerys*, *Abbieville*, *Amines*, *Dunkirke*, *Oſtend*, *Bridges*, *Zeland*, *Rotterdam*, and *Ghent*; all over theſe Provinces, every place is choaked, with it.

There is a City not 5 Leagues from this, called *Tourney*, a place renowned, for the making all ſorts of *Stockens* of wooll. It is not above 20 years agoe that they betook themſelves to make the worſted Hoſe, A trade in my minority, was conſiderable from London, into theſe Countries; and now you may have a parcell of *Engliſh worſted Hoſe* 20 years by you, and it's a queſtion, if ever you ſell them for the price they coſt, and probably you may Loſe twenty per Cent. by them.

It's not above three yeares agoe, that there was a Scarcity of Combed wool here in this quarter of the Countrey, and ſeverall of thoſe ſtocking Merchants came running hither to me, to buy ſome; I told them that ſuch ſeverity was then uſed in England, as people were mad to adventure; this want Lafted not above three weeks, but it put the people of *Tournay* on a reſolution to draw up a requeſt to *Monſieur Colbert*, that he would make a defence of all Engliſh Manufacture; ſince they in England, had put a ſtop to the Exportation of their wooll, to the great prejudice of the Manufacture of their City. After which thoſe of this Town joyned with them, and ſo came a ſtop to the Trade, which we injoyed for ſome time. So that you can eaſily ſee how inſenſibly thoſe *Dover* and *Canterbury* Tranſporters, draw the Kingdomes hearts blood from them; I could add much more of the great benefit our Neighbours receive by it; which proves to an abſolute ruine! but I gueſs you can as eaſily comprehend my meaning as if I had further enlarged.

In a word, *France* rejects our Fabricks at this day, preſuming that they ſhall never want our wooll to make their own Fantaſtick Fabricks, which are ſo variable as puts a great ſtop to the Currant demand, that uſed to be of our more ſolid Fabricks, for they will pretend to give the mode to all the world, and ſo by this means in time, all the world will be diſguſted with our Fabricks, when by conſequence, they ſhall receive the mode from the *French*, conſider of this I pray, that ſo there may be ſome ſpeedy remedy.